

maintenance man and operator of the City Park carousel. Just as Mr. Whittemore cared about the happiness of children, he also cared about his family. He loved and appreciated his family and shared his light with all.

Mr. Whittemore was a man of kindness and generosity. Through his involvement in the community, he touched the lives of many. His smile, his devotion, and his zest for life will long be remembered and admired. Those who have come to know J.B. Whittemore will miss him greatly. I am confident however, that in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of Mr. Whittemore can take comfort in the knowledge that he made a significant impact on the quality of life of the citizens of Pueblo.

SIKH LEADER'S LETTER EXPOSES CONFLICT IN KASHMIR

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, India has recently undertaken a military effort to eliminate the freedom movement in Kashmir. Supporters of freedom for all the nations of South Asia, especially neighboring Punjab, Khalistan, are concerned that if this conflict spreads, it could be a threat to other nations inside India's borders.

Recently, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, wrote a letter to the *Washington Times* which I am sure will be of interest to my colleagues. He pointed out that the air attacks are really an attack on the Kashmiri freedom fighters. "India has not yet learned that people struggling for freedom cannot be suppressed by force forever," he wrote.

Dr. Aulakh wrote that "the reason for these conflicts is the denial of self-determination by the country that proclaims itself 'the world's largest democracy.'" This is the cause not only of the conflict in Kargil, but many of the political problems in South Asia. India spends its money to build nuclear weapons and forcibly maintain its unstable, polyglot country while half its people live below the international poverty line. To make it worse, India convened a meeting last month with China, Cuba, Serbia, and other enemies of our country "to stop the U.S." Why are the overstressed taxpayers of America supporting this kind of government?

Only when free and fair plebiscites on independence are held in those regions that are seeking their freedom can India legitimately claim that it is a democratic power. India promised the people of Kashmir a plebiscite in 1948. It promised the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, that they would have autonomy. India claims it is democratic and that there is no support for independence in these places or in Nagaland or any of the other lands it occupies. Then why not simply have a vote?

The conflict at Kargil shows that India is unstable. It is falling apart in front of our eyes. We should get on the right side of history and support the freedom movements by cutting off aid to India and by calling for free and fair plebiscites for those seeking freedom.

I insert the Council of Khalistan's letter into the RECORD.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES,

June 8, 1999.

India's recent air attacks on Kashmir are really a war on the Kashmiri freedom movement. Everything India has tried to put down the freedom movement has failed, so now it has resorted to an air war against the Kashmiris. Sikhs are concerned that neighboring Punjab or Khalistan could be next.

This war is designed to suppress the freedom fighters in Kashmir. India has not yet learned that people struggling for freedom cannot be suppressed by force forever. This is why more than 500,000 Indian soldiers are stationed in Kashmir. Another 500,000 are stationed in Punjab to suppress the movement to free Khalistan. India has already lost two Russian-made MiG fighters and two helicopter gunships.

To suppress the freedom struggle, the Indian government has killed more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1948, more than 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988 and tens of thousands of others.

The reason for these conflicts is the denial of self-determination by the country that proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy." America periodically conducts democratic votes on the status of Puerto Rico, with independence as an option. Canada does the same for Quebec, and Great Britain recently allowed Scotland and Wales to elect their own parliaments, moving them one step closer to a vote on independence. If self-determination is good enough for them, why shouldn't the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland and others seeking their freedom from India enjoy the same rights?

The United States, Canada and Great Britain are major world powers. Not only is a free and fair plebiscite the democratic way to settle these issues, it is how great powers conduct themselves. India claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Then why not hold a free and fair vote? If India wants to be a world power and if it claims that it is democratic, then it should allow the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland and the others seeking their freedom to hold a plebiscite under international supervision on the question of independence so that this issue can be settled in a free and fair vote.

The war against the people of Kashmir shows the inherent weakness of the Indian government. Now is the best time for the people and nations of South Asia to claim their freedom. America can support this by cutting off aid to India until it lets people live in freedom and by declaring its open support for the freedom movements of South Asia.

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President,
Council of Khalistan.

IN MEMORY AND TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. "JIMMY" CREAMER

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay solemn tribute to a distinguished colleague and dear friend, James J. "Jimmy" Creamer. I must confess that I can hardly believe that this man, so full of life and love, is no longer with us. Just last week, I ran into Jimmy in the halls of the Rhode Island State House. We had a typical conversation, laughing at Jimmy's stories and humorous insights

into Rhode Island politics, and then he passed away suddenly the next day. I mourn the passing of this wonderful man, but I also stand today in appreciation of the conversation I had with him on Monday, and countless others like it, and in celebration of a life lived to the fullest and to the benefit of all who knew him.

Jimmy Creamer was a lifelong resident of Providence, Rhode Island. He started his career in public service by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps out of high school. After serving for three years in the military, he became a member of the Providence Fire Department and retired as Lieutenant after 20 years and with a Commendation for Devotion to Duty and Meritorious Services. He also found the time, while working and raising his young family, to pursue higher education and return to Providence College and earn both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees.

After retiring from the Fire Department Jimmy began his career in Rhode Island politics, holding several different positions before being appointed Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. He held that position for 19 years, under the leadership of three different speakers, and became an invaluable resource to the members of the State legislature and the people of Rhode Island. He brought both institutional knowledge and political insight to his work, as well as a tremendous sense of dedication, loyalty, and integrity.

In addition to his professional work at the State House, he lent his expertise to the Democratic party in Rhode Island as chairman of the 8th Ward Democratic Committee in Providence and as a well-respected member of the Democratic State Committee. He also found the time to continue his involvement with the Providence Fire Department, to serve as a substitute teacher in the Providence school system, to help organize youth hockey in the area, and to coach a Little League baseball team. As his colleagues in the Rhode Island House of Representatives stated in a recent House Resolution, "Anyone could plainly see that his heart belonged to children. The look of joy on his face was evident every time he taught a child to swing a bat or stand up on skates. . . . Jimmy loved children." What an incredible testament to the legacy this man has left behind him.

I first met Jimmy when I was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives in 1984, and he quickly became a close friend and trusted adviser. I could always depend on Jimmy for sound and honest advice, and perhaps even more importantly, for a smile and a few words of wit or encouragement. I am proud to have called this man my friend, and feel that the entire Rhode Island State Legislature is a better institution for his 19 years there.

Jimmy's life was dedicated to his family and then to the people and State of Rhode Island. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, his two sons, James and Patrick, two grandchildren, and a brother and three sisters. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother, and I offer my deepest sympathies to his family as they mourn the loss of this special and generous man. He will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure to know him.